ARGUMENTS

Rejection of Claims on Art Grounds in the 07/13/2004 Office Action, and Traversal Thereof

In the 07/13/2004 Office Action, claims 1-268 were rejected on prior art grounds, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C 103(a).

Claims 1-3, 5-8; 10 – 13, 15 – 18; 20 – 22, 24 – 27; 29 – 166; 167 – 169, 171 – 174; 176 – 178, 180 – 183; 185 – 187, 189 – 192; 194 – 196, 198 – 201, 203 – 206, 208 – 211; 213 – 215, 217 – 220; 222 – 224, 226 – 229; 231 – 233, 235 – 238; 240 -242, 244 – 247; 249 – 252, 254 – 257; 259 – 261, 263 – 266, and 268 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pazel, U.S. Patent 5,410,648.

Claims 4, 14, 23, 170, 179, 188, 197, 207, 216, 225, 234, 253, and 262 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pazel, U.S. Patent 5,410,648 in view of Hicken, et al., U.S. Patent 6,473,896.

The present invention is an improved software development tool comprising methods and systems that create a graphical representation of source code regardless of the programming language in which the source code is written. In addition, the software tool simultaneously reflects any modifications to the source code to both the display of the graphical representation as well as the textual display of the source code.

In accordance with the methods and systems consistent with the present invention, the improved software development tool generates a transient meta model which stores a language-neutral representation of the source code. The graphical and textual representations of the source code are generated from the language-neutral representation in the transient meta model.

The Present Invention Is Novel Over Pazel, U.S. Patent 5,410,648

As stated in MPEP §2131, a claim is anticipated under §102 only if each and every element as set forth in the claim, in as complete of detail, is found in a single prior art reference. The claimed invention, according to independent claims 1, 10, 20, 167, 176, 185, 194, 203, 213, 222, 231, 240, 249, 259, and 268 as currently amended call for a means or step of generating a transient meta model which stores a language-neutral representation of the source code. As such, for the cited reference to be anticipatory, the reference must describe this identical element or step. In other words, the reference, to teach in as much detail as is claimed by the present invention, must disclose a means or step of generating a transient meta model which stores a language-neutral representation of the source code.

Pazel does not teach a means or step of generating a transient meta model which stores a language-neutral representation of the source code. Therefore, Pazel cannot anticipate the present invention as currently claimed.

The Present Invention Is Not Obvious Over The Cited References

The cited patents to Pazel, Hicken et al., U.S. Patent 6,473,896 and Graham, U.S. Patent 5,918,053 including the present application all broadly disclose steps for diagramming representations of source codes written using various programming languages. However, none of the cited references disclose, suggest or teach a means or step of generating a transient meta model which stores a language-neutral representation of the source code. In particular, none of the cited references disclose, suggest or teach a step of displaying a graphical representation of the source code generated from the language-neutral representation in the transient meta model. Therefore, the cited references, alone or in combination fail to contain any teaching or suggestion of the above underlined matter as it pertains to the currently amended independent claims. Support for the above underlined requirements can be found as original in paragraph [0053] of the present application. Thus, no new matter has been added by these amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-268, constituting the claims pending in the application, are submitted to be fully patentable and in allowable condition to address and overcome the rejections.

If any issues remain outstanding, incident to the allowance of the application, Examiner Shrader is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (919)-664-8222 or via email at jinang@trianglepatents.com to discuss the resolution of such issues, in order that prosecution of the application may be concluded favorably to the applicant, consistent with the applicant's making of a substantial advance in the art and particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

This response is submitted to the USPTO via USPS Express Mail on 10/25/04

Respectfully submitted,

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